

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-36 were pending in this application. Claims 1-8, 13-19, 23-29, 33, and 34 have been amended and claims 12, 22, and 32 have been canceled herein. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31, and 33-36 remain pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application for at least the reasons presented below.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection, Du in view of SiteMinder

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,041,306, issued March 21, 2000, to Du et al. (hereinafter “Du”) in view of Netegrity, Inc., “SiteMinder Policy Server Operations Guide”, Version 4.0, published 1997 (hereinafter “SiteMinder”). The Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting these claims. Therefore, the Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Office Action must establish: 1) some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine their teachings; 2) a reasonable expectation of success of such a modification or combination; and 3) a teaching or suggestion in the cited prior art of each claimed limitation. See MPEP § 706.02(j). However, as will be discussed below, the references cited by the Office Action do not teach or suggest each claimed limitation. For example, neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests associating workflows with one or more groups in an identity system, receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to at least one identity profile of an entity in said identity system, and performing a first workflow for the task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile.

Du is directed to "a system and method for performing flexible workflow process execution in a distributed workflow management system." (Col. 2, lines 59-61) Under Du "the distributed workflow management system is formed by a computer network comprising a plurality of computers." (Col. 3, lines 1-3) "A workflow process management system operates on one or more of the computers to control the computer network in executing the workflow process." (Col. 3, lines 4-7) "Each workflow process includes a sequence of activities, each of which is ordinarily performed by one of the computer systems." (Col. 4, lines 34-36) "The WFPM system provides procedural automation of the workflow process by managing the sequence of process activities and the invocation of appropriate user, machine or microprocessor-controlled device resources associated with the various activity steps." (Col. 4, lines 51-56) That is, Du teaches controlling distribution of processing of tasks between a number of computers in a network. However, Du does not teach or suggest performing a first workflow for a task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile.

The cited portions of SiteMinder relate to policies and policy domains (p.235-237 and 325-328) and responding to requests for resources (p. 301-304). Under SiteMinder, policies, which may be grouped together into policy domains, control a user's access to resources. Resource within a policy domain, i.e., resource to which a policy domain applies, can be further grouped into realms. Access to the resource is controlled by rules defined for the realm that contains the requested resource. (See pages 235 and 325) However, the cited portions of SiteMinder do not teach or suggest performing a first workflow for a task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile.

The combination of references are no more relevant to the pending claims than either reference alone since neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest,

alone or in combination, performing a first workflow for a task, the first workflow associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of the request wherein the first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform the task to affect the target identity profile. That is, neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, affecting a target identity profile by performing a workflow associated with a group that contains the target identity profile. Rather Du teaches controlling distribution of processing of tasks between a number of computers in a network while the cited portions of SiteMinder teach controlling user access of resources based on policies applied to groups of resources.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-11, 13, and 34-36 depend, claim 14, upon which claims 15-21 and 23 depend, and claim 24, upon which claims 25-31 and 33 depend, each recite in part "associating workflows with one or more groups in an identity system, each group including one or more users of the identity system; receiving a request to perform a task that pertains to at least one identity profile of an entity in said identity system; and performing a first workflow for said task, said first workflow is associated with a first group that includes a target identity profile of said request; wherein: said first workflow comprises a predefined set of steps that perform said task to affect the target identity profile, said predefined set of steps comprising a first step and a second step." Neither Du nor the cited portions of SiteMinder teach or suggest, alone or in combination, affecting a target identity profile by performing a workflow associated with a group that contains the target identity profile. Rather Du teaches controlling distribution of processing of tasks between a number of computers in a network while the cited portions of SiteMinder teach controlling user access of resources based on policies applied to groups of resources. For at least these reasons, claims 1-11, 13-21, 23-31, and 33-36 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/998,895
Amendment dated: May 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2006

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


William J. Daley
Reg. No. 52,471

Date: 5/4/06

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000 (Denver)
Fax: 303-571-4321 (Denver)

Enclosures

WJD/sbm
60735775 v1